is provided for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities in the Government Hospitals located on National Highways.

Rising gap between male-female ratio in the country

609. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite so many laws and regulations existing in the country, gap between male-female ratio is on the rise;

(b) if so, the details of steps taken to ameliorate the situation; and

(c) the reasons for the non-conviction in the past few years in the cases of charges of misuse of diagnostic techniques by various nursing homes and clinics?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The female to male ratio declined in India from 972 in 1901 to 927 in 1991. However, the sex ratio has since improved to 933 as per 2001 Census.

(b) The Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 (PC & PNDT Act) is being implemented in the country. The Act provides for the prohibition of sex selection, before or after conception, and for regulation of pre-natal diagnostic techniques for the purpose of detecting certain abnormalities and for the prevention of their misuse for sex determination leading to female foeticide; and for the matters connected therewith. The Implmentation of the Act rests with the States and Union Territories through the Appropriate Authorities appointed under the Act at State, District as well at Sub-district levels. It is, nevertheless, recognized that mere PC & PNDT Act is not enough to deal with the problem that has roots in social behavior and prejudices. Various activities have been undertaken to create awareness against the practice of pre-natal determination of sex and female foeticide through Radio, Television, and print media. Workshops and seminars have also been organized at State/regional/district/block levels to create awareness against this social evil. Cooperation has also been sought from NGOs, religious/spiritual leaders, as well as medical fraternity to curb this practice. The Government of India has launched 'Save the Girl Child Campaign' with a view to lessen son preference by

highlighting achievements of young girls. A National Inspection and Monitoring Committee with members from National commission for Women, Department of women and Child Development, and reputed NGOs has been constituted to take stock of the situation at ground level by visiting clinics in States/UTs.

(c) The Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 (PC & PNDT Act) was amended in 2003 and is being implemented in the country. At present, 308 court cases are filed in courts in various states and Union Territories. The clinics are inspected for violation of the Act and action to suspend the registration is taken by the Appropriate Authorities. One of the problems is that the activity of sex determination takes place secretly where both the service providers and service seekers are in league to defeat the provisions of the law.

Cancer and TB cases in India

610. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons effected with Tuberculosis (TB) and Cancer during the year 2000 and added thereto year-wise since then, State-wise;

(b) the details of the NGOs engaged in combating and rendering care to TB and Cancer patients, respectively;

(c) the funds allocated to them in last five years till the current year;

(d) whether any augmented measures are contemplated to eradicate TB and making treatment of Cancer affordable to the common man;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) A statement indicating State-wise details of TB patients detected and put on treatment under the Programme since year 2000 is given at Statement I. (*See* Below)

As per the National Cancer Registry Programme of ICMR, it is estimated that there are about 2.25 million cancer cases in India. At any